THE STRANGEST STORIES EVER TOLD!

MARVEL TALES

ATLAS

10¢

FEB.
No. 105
10¢
K

THE SPIDER WAITS!

Also...

"THE MAN WHO VANISHED!"

"IN LITTLE PIECES!"

"A DROP OF WATER!"

THE SPIDER WAITS

9438

IT WAS A FEUD, THAT'S WHAT IT WAS! ALL MY LIFE I HAD HATED SPIDERS WITH A HORRIBLE LOATHING! I TRAMPLED, KILLED, DESTROYED THE CREATURES ...NEVER DREAMING, HARDLY SUSPECTING THAT SOMEWHERE, MALEVOLENTLY, WITH DEVILISH PATIENCE...

THE SPIDER WAITS!

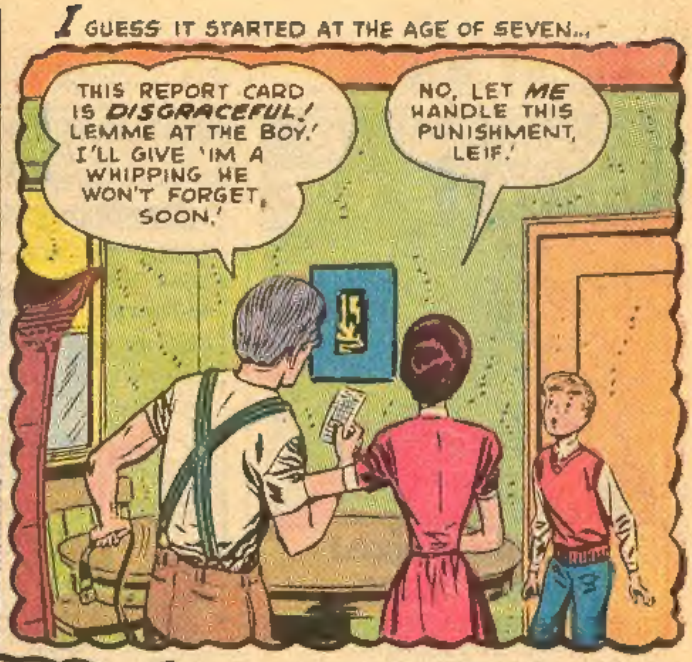
I LIKED MY JOB AT THE FACTORY--BUT...

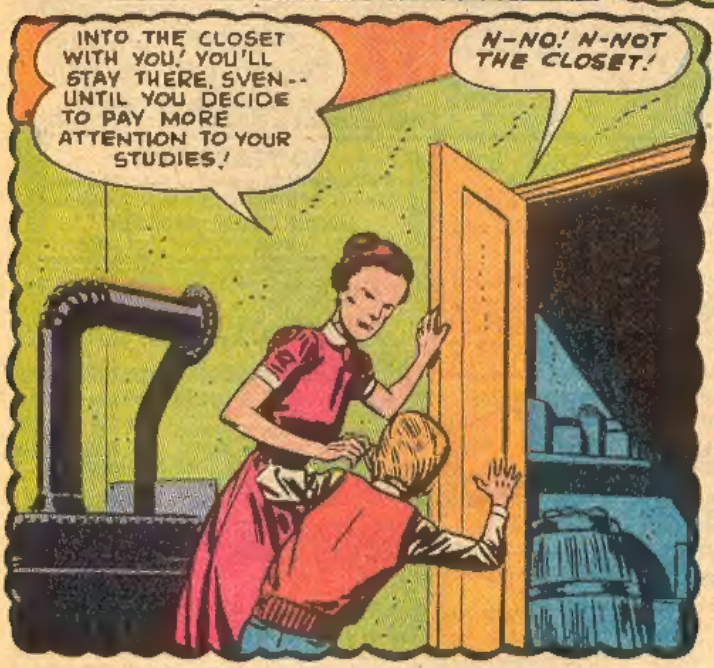
THE CLOSETS! THEY'RE *CRAWLING* WITH SPIDERS!

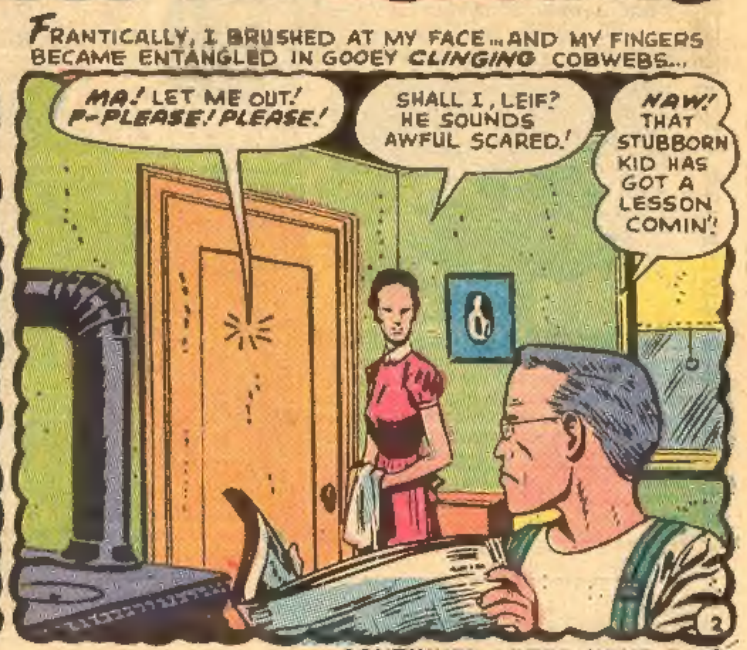
Y-YES, MR. O'TOOLE!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! YOU'RE PRETTY THOROUGH AND EFFICIENT AT EVERYTHING ELSE! WHY FALL DOWN WHEN IT COMES TO GETTING RID OF THE SPIDERS?

I'M *AFRAID* OF SPIDERS!


I GUESS IT STARTED AT THE AGE OF SEVEN...
THIS REPORT CARD IS DISGRACEFUL! LEMME AT THE BOY.' I'LL GIVE 'IM A WHIPPING HE WON'T FORGET, SOON.'
NO, LET ME HANDLE THIS PUNISHMENT, LEIF.'




FRANTICALLY, I BRUSHED AT MY FACE...AND MY FINGERS BECAME ENTANGLED IN GOOEY CLINGING COBWEBS...
MA! LET ME OUT! P-PLEASE! PLEASE!
SHALL I, LEIF? HE SOUNDS AWFUL SCARED.'
NAW! THAT STUBBORN KID HAS GOT A LESSON COMIN'!
2

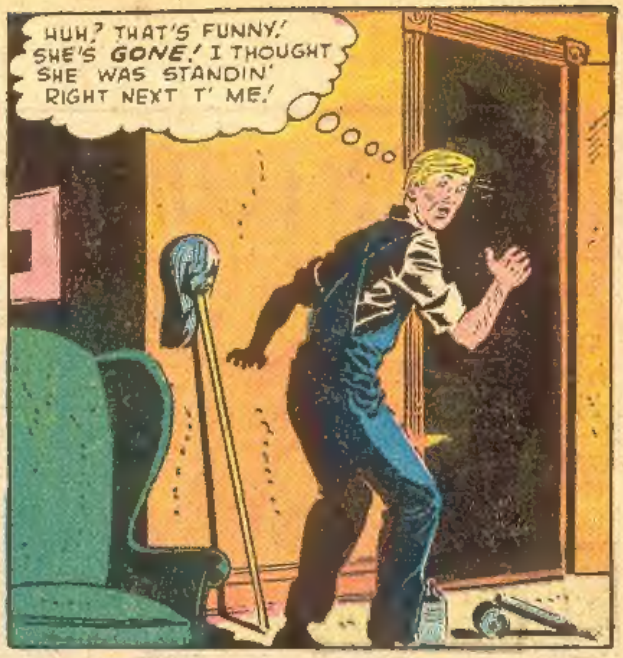
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

AND THEN I FELT THEM ON ME...CRAWLING THROUGH MY HAIR...DOWN MY COLLAR...AND UP MY ARMS AND LEGS.!
OWW! MA! PA! PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR! THE SPIDERS... THEY'RE CRAWLIN' ALL OVER ME... THEY'LL EAT ME ALIVE.!
E-EEEYAHH.! LET ME OUT, MA.! I'LL BE GOOD, PA.! I'LL STUDY MY LESSONS.! LEMME OUT.!!
THEY FINALLY LET ME OUT OF THAT CLOSET OF HORROR WHEN THEY WERE GOOD AN' READY.!
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN A PRETTY HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE.!
I'VE BEEN SCARED STIFF OF SPIDERS EVER SINCE.! I LOATHE THEM.! I HATE THE LITTLE DEVILS WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL.!
BUT THOUGH I WAS FRIGHTENED OF THEM, I GOT A SAVAGE PLEASURE OUT O' KILLING THEM.!
SVEN.! WHAT ARE YOU DOING.?
KILLING SPIDERS.! I HATE THEM.!
AN' THAT'S WHY THE FACTORY CLOSETS ARE THE WAY THEY ARE.!
I SYMPATHIZE WITH THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT SPIDERS, BUT I CAN'T CATER TO YOUR PHOBIAS.! EITHER THOSE SPIDERS GO... OR YOU DO.!
3

IT WAS A GOOD JOB, AND I COULDN'T AFFORD TO LOSE IT, SO...
I'LL FINISH OFF EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU LITTLE SONS OF SATAN...
LURE UNSUSPECTING VICTIMS INTO YOUR WEB, THEN DEVOUR 'EM, WILL YA? I'LL SHOW YOU!
GOTCHA! HA-HA-HAA-AA! LOOK AT 'EM RUN!
FLOP!
DIE!... HA-HA! NOT ONE OF YOU LITTLE MONGTERS IS GOING TO GET AWAY! I'LL KILL ALL OF YA...
CLOMP! CLOMP! CLOMP!
AND THIS IS IN CASE THERE ARE ANY OF YOU STILL ALIVE...
NICE JOB, SVEN! VERY THOROUGH!
I HATE TO GET STARTED, BUT ONCE I DO, I LOVE KILLIN' SPIDERS!
AND TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION, HERE'S A FIVE DOLLAR BONUS!
A FIVE SPOT! WOW! THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY!
4

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

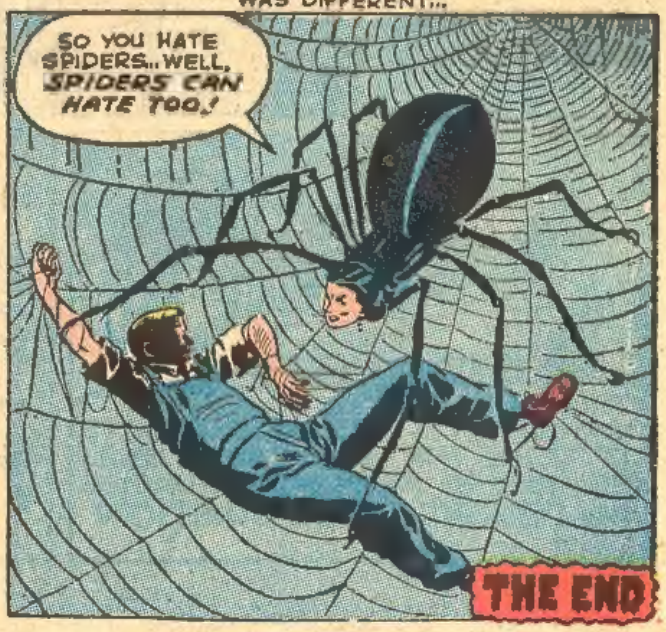
WHEN THE FACTORY WHISTLE SOUNDED THE END OF THE WORKING DAY, I NATURALLY HEADED FOR THE NEAREST BAR TO CELEBRATE MY GOOD LUCK...
JUST LEAVE TH' WHOLE BOTTLE.'
CELEBRATIN', EH? WOT'S THE OCCASION?
SPIDERS, CHARLIE.' I'M CELEBRATING MY VICTORY OVER SPIDERS.' HA-HA-HAAA!
YA NUTS, OR SUMPIN'?
I FELT LIKE A GLADIATOR OF OLD! I HAD WAGED BATTLE AGAINST MY ENEMY AND WON...
DO YA KNOW WHAT IT MEANS FOR ME TO KILL SPIDERS, CHARLIE? LEMME TELL YOU...
'SCUSE ME, SVEN, I GOTTA WAIT ON ANOTHER CUSTOMER.'
THE THINGS A BARTENDER HEARS!
I HAD LOST MY FAVORITE AUDIENCE.' BUT SUDDENLY I NOTICED SOMEONE SITTING BESIDE ME, A WOMAN...
DO YOU KNOW THAT I HAVE ALWAYSH BEEN A-SCARED O' SPIDERS?
ISN'T THAT A COINCIDENCE? SO HAVE I.'
BUT I'VE CONQUERED MY FEAR OF 'EM.' THEY DON'T SCARE ME NO MORE.' I'M THE BIGGEST, BEST SPIDER KILLER IN ALL THE LAND.'
I'M SO GLAD TO HAVE MET YOU!
YOU SEE, I HAVE A CLOSET FULL OF SPIDERS AT HOME.' BUT I'M AFRAID TO CLEAR THEM OUT.' IF YOU DO IT, I'LL PAY YOU TEN DOLLARS.'
TEN DOLLARS -- FOR A MINUTE'S WORK? LADY, YOU JUST HIRED THE PERFECT MAN FOR THE JOB!
SHE LED ME, THROUGH TWISTING ALLEYS, TO A STRANGE DARK HOUSE...
ARE YA SURE THIS IS THE PLACE? IT LOOKS EMPTY.'
IT ISN'T.' COME ON IN.'



I STEPPED INTO THE CLOSET, AND AS I DID, THAT OLD DREAD CAME OVER ME...

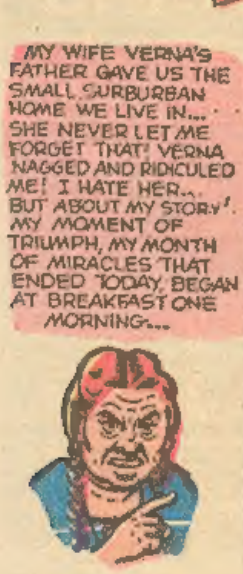
SUDDENLY, I LOST MY FOOTING, AND TUMBLED INTO YAWNING SPACE...

AND SUDDENLY I SAW *HER* AGAIN... ONLY... SHE WAS DIFFERENT...



IN LITTLE PIECES

BEN! OH, BEN! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME? THIS IS WORSE THAN DEATH! HELP ME, BEN... PLEASE HELP ME!
YOU DESERVE THIS, VERNA! YOU'VE NAGGED AND HOUNDED ME LONG ENOUGH! YOU'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN... YOU'LL NEVER DO ANYTHING AGAIN! I'VE DEFEATED YOU AT LAST! HA! HA! HA! HA!
9303


MY WIFE VERNA'S FATHER GAVE US THE SMALL SUBURBAN HOME WE LIVE IN... SHE NEVER LET ME FORGET THAT! VERNA NAGGED AND RIDICULED ME! I HATE HER... BUT ABOUT MY STORY! MY MOMENT OF TRIUMPH, MY MONTH OF MIRACLES THAT ENDED TODAY, BEGAN AT BREAKFAST ONE MORNING...

" BRILLIANT YOUNG WALTER HOTHORN OF SILVER FALLS HAS TAKEN ANOTHER STEP IN HIS METEORIC RISE IN THE BUSINESS WORLD! THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WINSTEAD CO. YESTERDAY ELECTED 42 YEAR OLD HOTHORN PRESIDENT OF THE VAST CORPORATION!"
MAYBE IT'S A-ANOTHER WALTER HOTHORN!

HOW MANY WALTER HOTHORNS ARE THERE IN SILVER FALLS, YOU FOOL? HE'S THE SAME ONE YOU WENT TO SCHOOL WITH! BUT IF YOU AREN'T SURE... HERE'S HIS PICTURE IN THE PAPER!
SCARCELY A DAY WENT BY THAT ONE OF MY SCHOOLMATES DIDN'T HAVE A WRITE-UP IN THE SILVER FALLS EXAMINER... I WAS THE ONLY COMPLETE FAILURE... THIS, VERNA NEVER LET ME FORGET...
OF ALL THE MEN IN TOWN I MIGHT'VE MARRIED I HAD TO PICK YOU... A JELLYFISH, A CHARACTERLESS WORM, A_A... THING!
EXCUSE ME, DEAR... I...I HAVE TO BE GETTING TO WORK!
THAT'S IT... RUN! RUN! YOU'RE ALWAYS RUNNING AWAY FROM EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY!
R-RIP!
HERE, I'VE TORN THE ARTICLE OUT OF THE PAPER! READ IT AND SEE WHAT YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN WITH A LITTLE COURAGE AND... BEN MAIJUS!
OH...
WHY, YOU DESPICABLE LITTLE SNEAK... YOU DID THAT DELIBERATELY! YOU'RE AFRAID TO GET BACK AT ME ANY OTHER WAY SO YOU KNOCKED MY PICTURE DOWN! YOU'VE ALWAYS HATED ME AND THIS PHOTO, BUT IT STAYS RIGHT HERE, DO YOU UNDERSTAND!
Y...YES, DEAR! I...I'D BETTER BE GOING!
SLAM!
IF ONLY I HAD DARED SCREAM OUT TO VERNA HOW MUCH I DID HATE HER, HOW I DESPISED EVEN HER PHOTO, HAVING THAT MEAN FACE STARE AT ME WHEN I WAS ALONE IN THE PARLOR! BUT I TOOK HER BITTER WORDS IN SILENCE! IT WASN'T UNTIL I GOT OFF THE BUS THAT I FOUND IT IN MY POCKET...
THE ARTICLE ABOUT WALTER HOTHORN... OH, WHY DOES SHE TORTURE ME SO?
BUS STOP
IN A RARE FIT OF ANGER BORN OF FRUSTRATION, I RIPPED UP THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ABOUT WALTER HOTHORN! I TORE THAT HATED FACE IN LITTLE PIECES...
I HATE YOU! I HATE EVERYONE WHO THINKS I'M A FAILURE!
R-RIP!
2

ANOTHER MISERABLE DAY IN MY LIFE PASSED...THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY MORNING, VERNA AND I WERE HAVING BREAKFAST AND AS USUAL, SHE WAS LOOKING FOR ANOTHER SUBJECT TO GOAD ME WITH IN THE MORNING EDITION OF THE EXAMINER...

V..VERNA, DEAR... ARE YOU SICK?

I...I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WALTER HOTHORN... *DEAD!* A YOUNG MAN, REALLY HAD EVERYTHING TO LIVE FOR...OH, NO, IT'S JUST TOO TERRIBLE!

EXTRA! HOTHORN DEAD

AND ONLY YESTERDAY MORNING I WAS... WHY...WHY DOES IT ALWAYS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO THE FINE, AMBITIOUS ONES? *OHHH!*

WALTER HOTHORN! HA! HA! I'D RATHER BE A LIVE FAILURE THAN A DEAD SUCCESS! *HA! HA! HA!*

SILVER FALLS E

ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, WALTER HOTHORN DIED MYSTERIOUSLY EXACTLY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER I HAD TORN UP HIS PHOTO! NATURALLY I SAW NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO EVENTS, UNTIL...

"HARVEY MAYBERRY MADE GENERAL MANAGER OF NORTON-BRIES!... IF VERNA EVER HEARD THAT HE WAS GIVEN THE PROMOTION INSTEAD OF ME I'D NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT!

EXAMINER

LOOK AT THE SMUG EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE! HARVEY MAYBERRY! I COULD NEVER STAND HIM...SO MUCH FOR YOU, MR. GENERAL MANAGER!

RIP!

EXT

HUSHED VOICES BUZZED IN THE OFFICE THE FOLLOWING MONDAY MORNING...HARVEY MAYBERRY HAD BEEN FOUND AT HIS SUMMER FISHING CABIN...*DEAD!*

IN HIS EARLY FORTIES... NICE CHAP, TOO! DEAD SINCE SUNDAY MORNING, THEY SAY!

SHH...HERE COMES MR. PUTNAM!

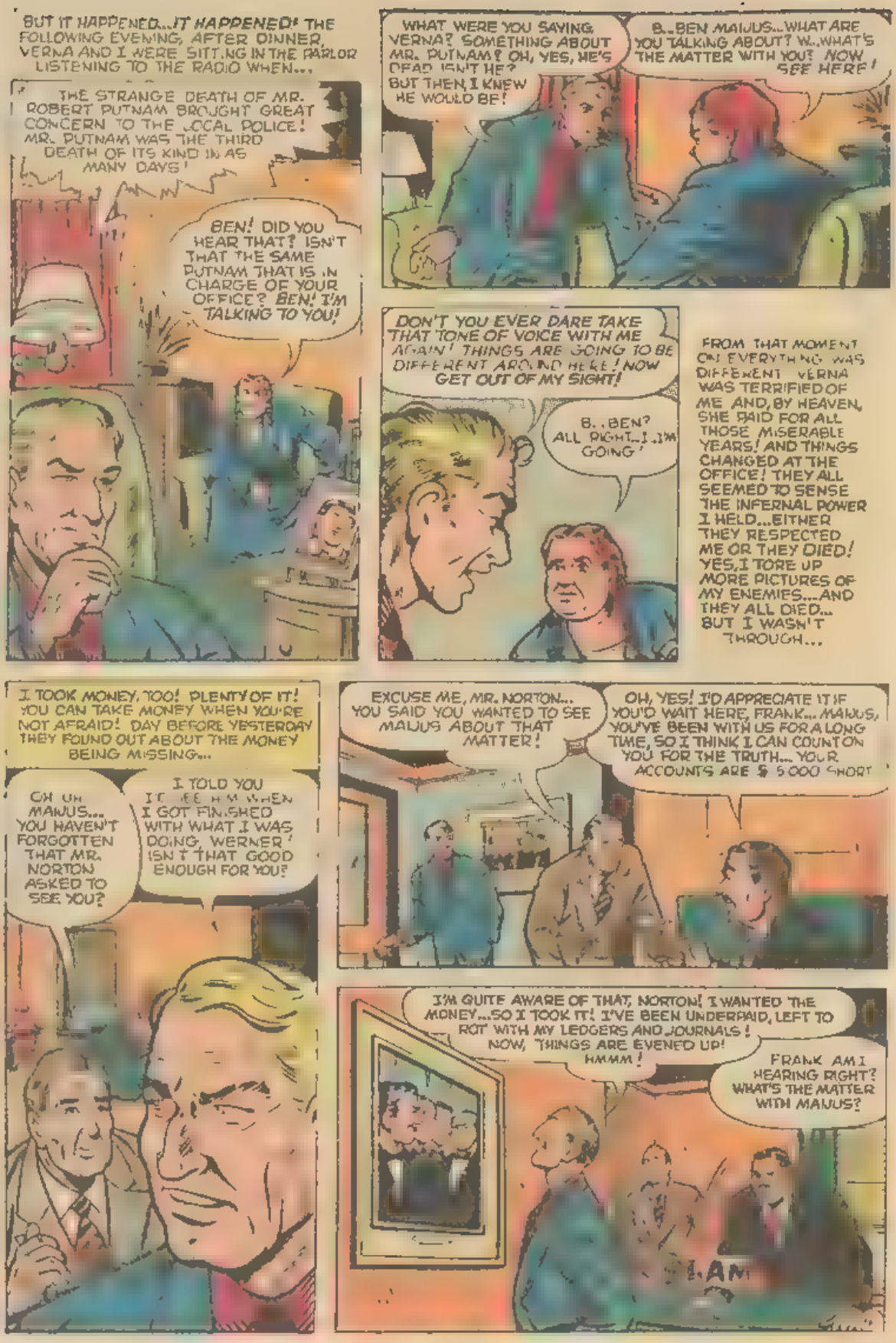
NO, THE AUTOPSY REVEALED NOTHING! HIS DEATH IS A COMPLETE MYSTERY! WE WERE TO GO GOLFING TOMORROW... BEST MAN I EVER HAD!

HMM...A PICTURE OF MR. PUTNAM! HE'S BEEN ON MY NECK SINCE HE CAME HERE!

I HATE HIM TOO... AT LEAST I'LL GET SOME SATISFACTION OUT OF TEARING HIS LIKENESS TO SHREDS... HE'LL NEVER KNOW I TORE HIS PHOTO, AND PUTNAM WON'T DIE...SUCH THINGS AREN'T POSSIBLE!

R-RIP!

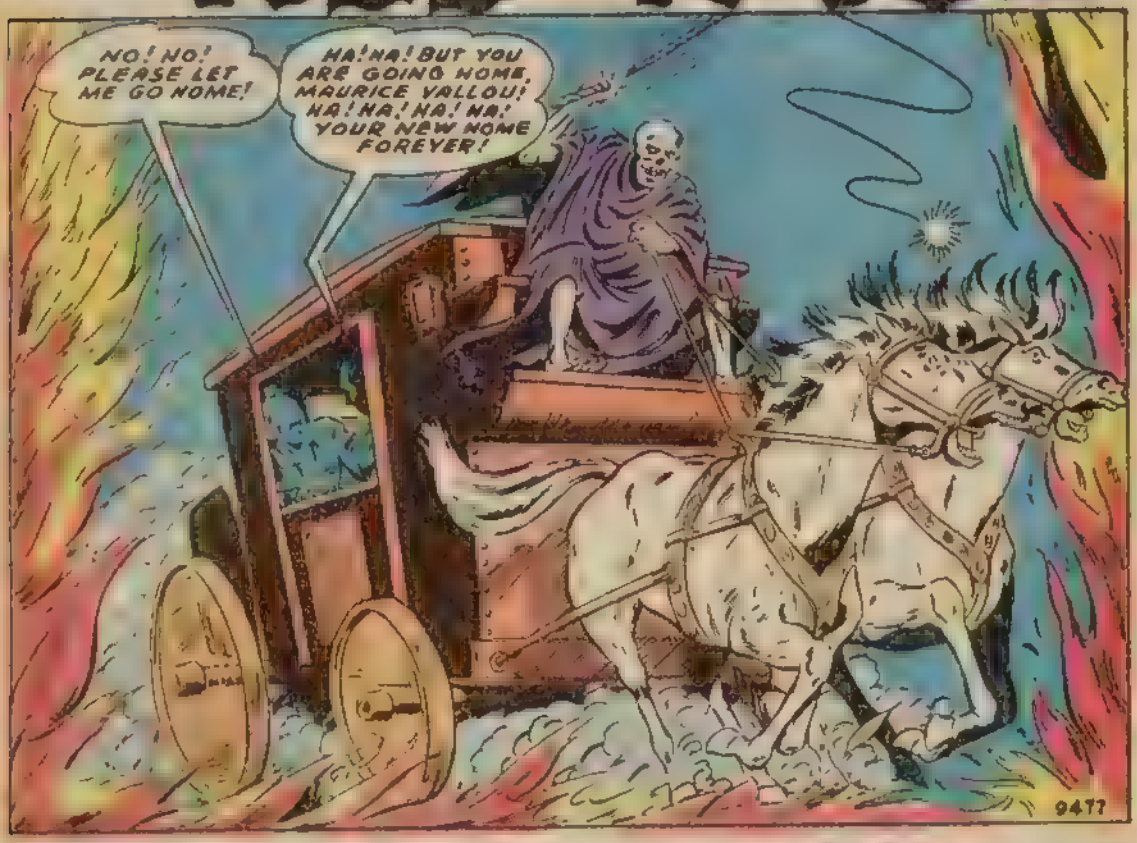
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

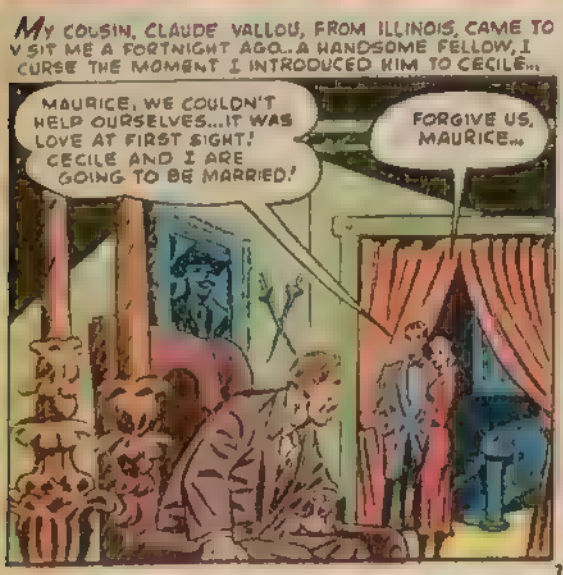

BUT IT HAPPENED...IT HAPPENED! THE FOLLOWING EVENING, AFTER DINNER, VERNA AND I WERE SITTING IN THE PARLOR LISTENING TO THE RADIO WHEN...
THE STRANGE DEATH OF MR. ROBERT PUTNAM BROUGHT GREAT CONCERN TO THE LOCAL POLICE! MR. PUTNAM WAS THE THIRD DEATH OF ITS KIND IN AS MANY DAYS!
BEN! DID YOU HEAR THAT? ISN'T THAT THE SAME PUTNAM THAT IS IN CHARGE OF YOUR OFFICE? BEN! I'M TALKING TO YOU!
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING, VERNA? SOMETHING ABOUT MR. PUTNAM? OH, YES, HE'S DEAD ISN'T HE? BUT THEN, I KNEW HE WOULD BE!
B..BEN MAIJUS...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? W..WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? NOW SEE HERE!
DON'T YOU EVER DARE TAKE THAT TONE OF VOICE WITH ME AGAIN! THINGS ARE GOING TO BE DIFFERENT AROUND HERE! NOW GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!
B..BEN? ALL RIGHT...I..I'M GOING!
FROM THAT MOMENT ON EVERYTHING WAS DIFFERENT VERNA WAS TERRIFIED OF ME AND, BY HEAVEN, SHE PAID FOR ALL THOSE MISERABLE YEARS! AND THINGS CHANGED AT THE OFFICE! THEY ALL SEEMED TO SENSE THE INFERNAL POWER I HELD...EITHER THEY RESPECTED ME OR THEY DIED! YES, I TORE UP MORE PICTURES OF MY ENEMIES...AND THEY ALL DIED... BUT I WASN'T THROUGH...
I TOOK MONEY, TOO! PLENTY OF IT! YOU CAN TAKE MONEY WHEN YOU'RE NOT AFRAID! DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT THE MONEY BEING MISSING...
OH UH MAIJUS... YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT MR. NORTON ASKED TO SEE YOU?
I TOLD YOU I'D SEE HIM WHEN I GOT FINISHED WITH WHAT I WAS DOING, WERNER! ISN'T THAT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU?
EXCUSE ME, MR. NORTON... YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE MAIJUS ABOUT THAT MATTER!
OH, YES! I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D WAIT HERE, FRANK... MAIJUS, YOU'VE BEEN WITH US FOR A LONG TIME, SO I THINK I CAN COUNT ON YOU FOR THE TRUTH... YOUR ACCOUNTS ARE $ 5000 SHORT
I'M QUITE AWARE OF THAT, NORTON! I WANTED THE MONEY...SO I TOOK IT! I'VE BEEN UNDERPAID, LEFT TO ROT WITH MY LEDGERS AND JOURNALS! NOW, THINGS ARE EVENED UP! HMMM!
FRANK AM I HEARING RIGHT? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH MAIJUS?
I AM

I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM...PERHAPS HE'S TIRED, NEEDS A VACATION!
REALLY, HUH? THAT'S A NEW ONE! SEE HERE, MAIJUS, HAVE YOU GONE MAD? WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT PICTURE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS!
WHAT A MOMENT! THAT STODGY STUFFED SHIRT, NORTON, FEELING NOTHING BUT ANGER AT I TORE UP THAT PRECIOUS PICTURE OF HIS! I THINK FRANK WERNER FELT SOME TERROR AT WHAT I DID! I SHUDDERED MYSELF, AS THAT DEADLY COLD CHILL CAME OVER ME..
I THINK MY ACTIONS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES!
MAIJUS! YOU'RE FIRED! EITHER YOU RETURN THAT MONEY IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OR IT'S THE POLICE NOW GET OUT OF HERE, YOU THIEF!
RIP!
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS! HA! HA! THAT'S ALL THE TIME I NEED HA! HA! HA!
OUTRAGEOUS! WHY, THE MAN IS MAD
J. NOL PRES
PRIVATE
NO, I WASN'T MAD! HAVE YOU EVER FELT THE THRILL OF ENDING LIFE WITH AN EASY TWIST OF YOUR HANDS? NO...HOW COULD YOU? BUT I SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST! OH, THE SATISFACTION I'D GET OUT OF SNUFFING OUT HER LIFE...VERNA'S...THAT WAS...TWO HOURS AGO..
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU, VERNA!
BEN...PLEASE...I...I DON'T LIKE THE WAY YOU LOOK...I'M AFRAID OF YOU, BEN!
THAT WON'T LAST LONG! YOU WON'T LAST LONG! DO YOU KNOW WHY, VERNA?
OH, DON'T, BEN, PLEASE! I KNOW YOU HATE ME...I'VE GIVEN YOU REASON, BUT..
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, VERNA? I'M GOING TO TEAR YOUR PHOTO INTO LITTLE PIECES... HOW I'VE HATED YOU AND THIS PICTURE YOU'LL NEVER KNOW!
BUT, BEN...THAT'S NOT MY PHOTO! OH, I'VE TRIED SO HARD TO PLEASE YOU LATELY! I KNEW YOU COULDN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF MY PICTURE...
RIP!
N...N...NOT YOUR... PHOTO? WHOSE, THEN? OHHH..
IT WAS TO BE A SURPRISE, BEN! IT'S ONE OF YOU TAKEN ABOUT EIGHT YEARS AGO...BEN... IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
THE END

THERE IS ONE WHO MAKES BRAVE MEN TREMBLE AND QUAKE WITH FEAR! WHO? LOOK CLOSELY AT THIS PICTURE, BECAUSE IT HOLDS THE SECRET OF EVIL AND DEATH! STUDY IT! STARE AT IT...UNTIL YOU SEE...

THE RED FACE




MY COUSIN, CLAUDE VALLOU, FROM ILLINOIS, CAME TO VISIT ME A FORTNIGHT AGO...A HANDSOME FELLOW, I CURSE THE MOMENT I INTRODUCED HIM TO CECILE...
MAURICE, WE COULDN'T HELP OURSELVES...IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT! CECILE AND I ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED!
FORGIVE US, MAURICE...

FORGIVENESS WAS NOT ONE OF MY VIRTUES! I'D SEE CLAUDE DEAD BEFORE I'D LET HIM HAVE CECILE...

"MONSIEUR RAVEAU? MY NAME IS MAURICE VALLOU! IT CAME TO MY ATTENTION SOME TIME AGO THAT YOU WOULD PERFORM CERTAIN WORK FOR THE RIGHT PRICE— I AM A WEALTHY MAN...

YOU ARE A TALKATIVE MAN! MY PRICE FOR MURDER IS FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS, IN ADVANCE! WHO IS TO BE THE VICTIM? WHERE WILL I FIND HIM?

I SHALL ARRANGE FOR THEM TO ACCOMPANY ME TOMORROW NIGHT AT NINE TO THE HOTEL DAUPHIN, ON THE ROUTE OF THE MARDI GRAS PARADE! I'LL BE IN THE COSTUME OF A MUSKETEER! WE'LL BE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER... I'LL NOD AT THE MAN... OH, BUT HOW SHALL I KNOW YOU?

I'LL DRESS AS THE DEVIL, MONSIEUR VALLOU — TRIDENT AND ALL! BUT FIRST, FIVE HUNDRED IN CASH! SEND IT BY MESSENGER TO CHARLES RAVEAU 5 3 BAYOU STREET!

I SENT MY TRUSTED SERVANT, BABARO, TO THE ADDRESS ON BAYOU STREET, A SHABBY ALLEY WHERE CUTTHROATS HID FROM THE LAW

YOU WISH TO COUNT THE MONEY, RAVEAU?

IT WILL BE HERE OR, HAHAHA! I WON'T BE THERE! NOW, AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE I PRACTICE MY ART ON YOU... HA! HA!

AHAHHA!

AIEEEE!

THUD!

SPLAT!

I FOUND IT HARD TO HIDE MY JUBILATION WHEN CLAUDE AND CECILE AGREED TO BE MY GUESTS AT THE MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION THE FOLLOWING EVENING. BUT THEY HAD TO GO OUT EARLIER FOR THEIR COSTUMES... NO MATTER, THEY'D MEET ME AT NINE...

FIVE MINUTES TO NINE EARLY!

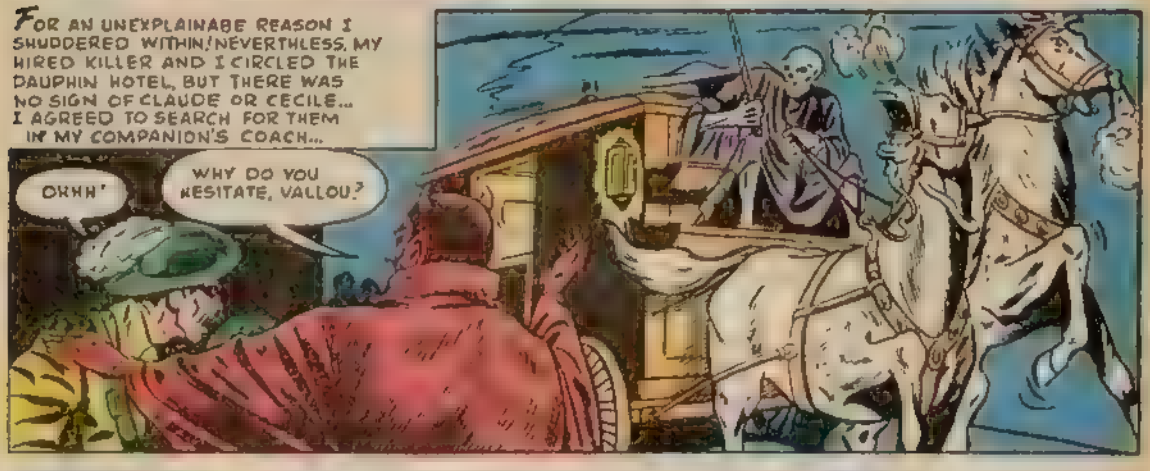
AH, BUT SOMEONE ELSE IS EARLY!

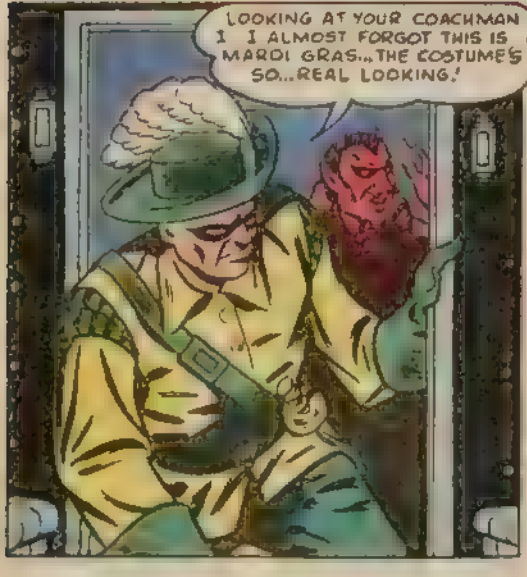
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

MONSIEUR RAVEAU? I AM MAURICE VALLOU! OUR FRIEND WILL BE HERE SOON!
SPLENDID, MONSIEUR VALLOU, SPLEND.D!

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER AND STILL NO SIGN OF CLAUDE AND CECILE...
YOU'RE QUITE SURE THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE TO MEET?
OF COURSE! PERHAPS THEY ARE AT ANOTHER CORNER OF THE HOTEL! SHALL WE LOOK FOR THEM?

I WAS ABOUT TO SUGGEST THE SAME THING, MY FRIEND... BUT WE MAY HAVE TO LOOK FURTHER...I HAVE A COACH WAITING, COME...


FOR AN UNEXPLAINABE REASON I SHUDDERED WITHIN! NEVERTHLESS, MY HIRED KILLER AND I CIRCLED THE DAUPHIN HOTEL, BUT THERE WAS NO SIGN OF CLAUDE OR CECILE... I AGREED TO SEARCH FOR THEM IN MY COMPANION'S COACH...
OHHH'
WHY DO YOU HESITATE, VALLOU?

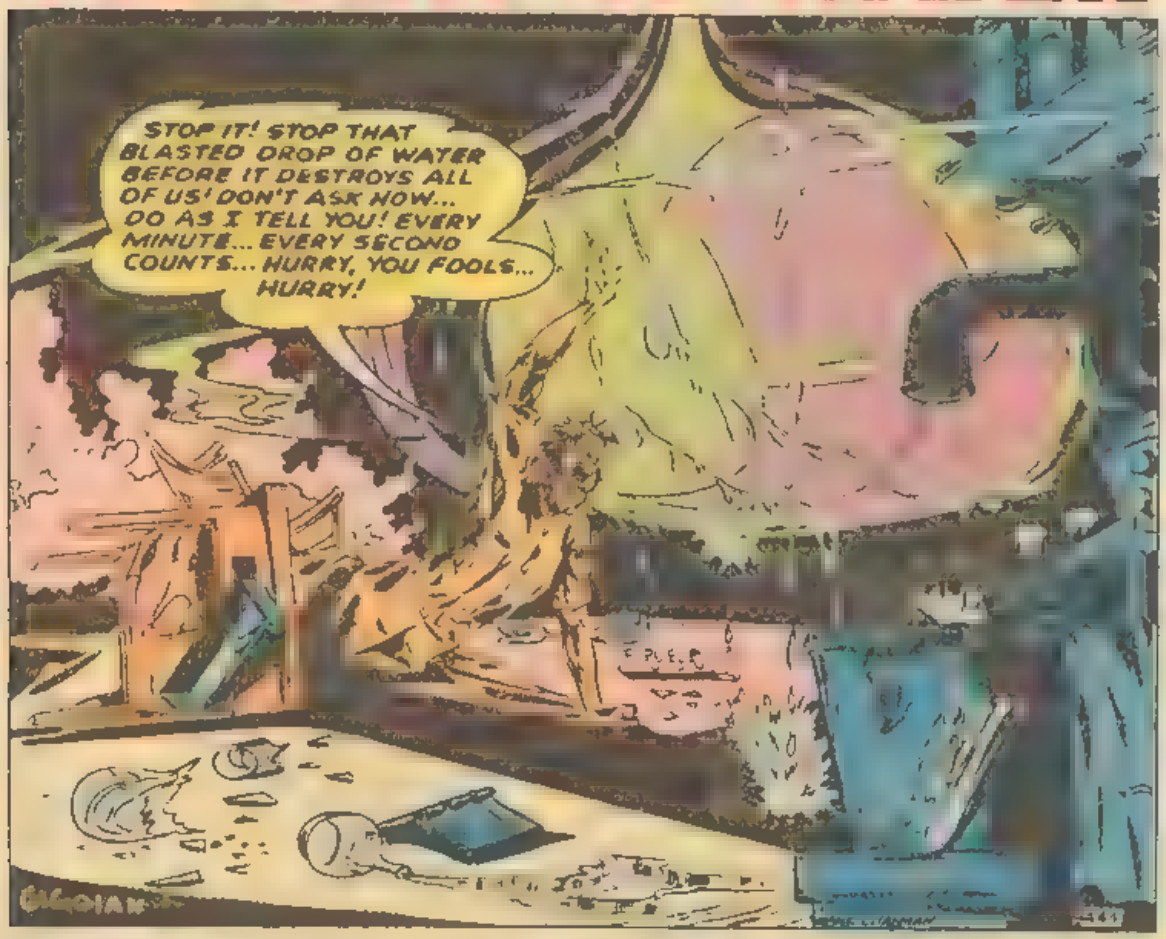

LOOKING AT YOUR COACHMAN I I ALMOST FORGOT THIS IS MARDI GRAS...THE COSTUMES SO...REAL LOOKING!

WHOOPS! BLAST THAT DRIVER... HE ALWAYS CATCHES ME OFF BALANCE. HO! HO! HO! HO!
MONSIEUR RAVEAU, PLEASE... LET ME OUT!

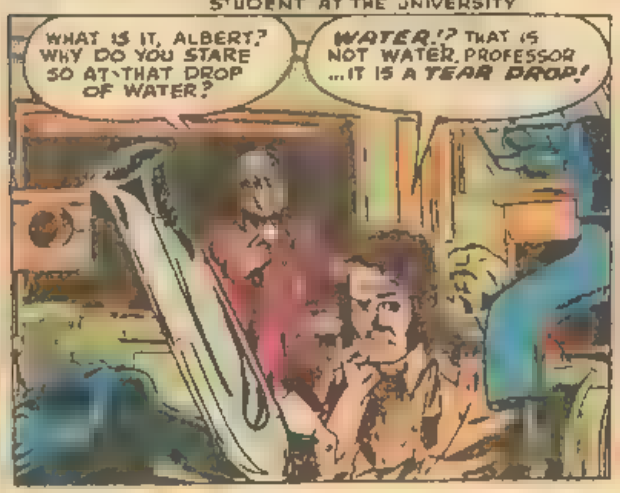
EEEAAGH! HELP! SAVE ME!
AAHHA!
OUT OF HIS WAY! DON'T LOOK AT HIM!
WITH HORROR I LOOKED AT HIS EVIL FACE, THEN I KNEW...
Y-YOU ARE NOT... RAVEAU?
WHAT DOES THE NAME MATTER? RAVEAU, VALLOU, OR SOME OTHER MURDERER OF INNOCENT SOULS... MY NAME DOESN'T MATTER!
PLEASE LET ME GO!
HAHA! YOU'RE NOT ENJOYING THE RIDE? HAHAHA!
AEEEEEEEEE!!!
HAHAHA!
TEN O'CLOCK, CLAUDE! WE CAN'T BLAME MAURICE FOR NOT WAITING... BUT I WAS SO ANXIOUS TO TELL HIM...
THAT WE ELOPED? THE SURPRISE CAN WAIT TILL TOMORROW, MY DARLING. COME, THIS IS A NIGHT FOR CELEBRATION.
I'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH FOR THIS MAURICE VALLOU! IF HE HAS CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT HAVING THAT MAN MURDERED, THAT'S HIS AFFAIR... EVEN THOUGH HE DID PAY ME IN ADVANCE, I CAN'T BE EXPECTED TO WAIT HERE ALL NIGHT!
THE END

I DON'T FEAR ANY MAN OR BEAST ON THE FACE OF THIS EARTH... BUT TERROR STRIKES MY HEART WHEN I EVEN THINK OF...

THE DROP OF WATER

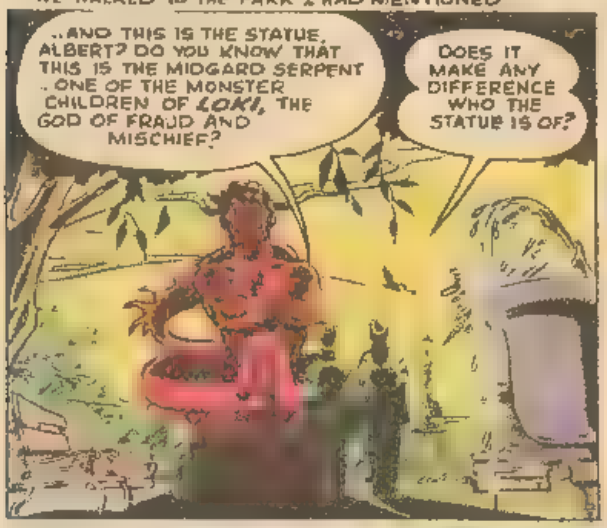

STOP IT! STOP THAT BLASTED DROP OF WATER BEFORE IT DESTROYS ALL OF US! DON'T ASK HOW... DO AS I TELL YOU! EVERY MINUTE... EVERY SECOND COUNTS... HURRY, YOU FOOLS... HURRY!

THAT'S THE KIND OF NIGHTMARES I'VE HAD EVER SINCE I FOUND *THE DROP OF WATER!* A DISCOVERY WHICH BEGAN BACK IN VIENNA WHEN I WAS A CHEMISTRY STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY



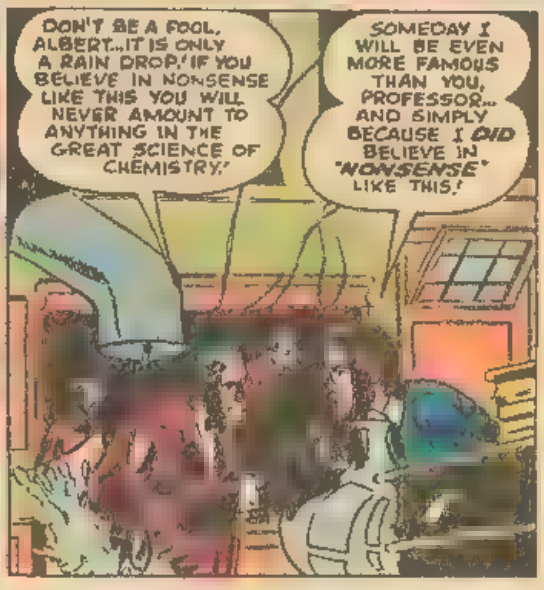
OH, SO NOW YOU CRY OVER YOUR CHEMISTRY PROBLEMS, ALBERT?
IT IS NOT MY TEAR PROFESSOR.. IT CAME FROM THE EYE OF THE *STATUE* IN THE PARK!

THE PROFESSOR WAS A BRILLIANT MAN--A MAN OF SCIENCE . SO HE DID NOT BELIEVE ME.' AFTER SCHOOL THAT DAY, WE WALKED TO THE PARK I HAD MENTIONED

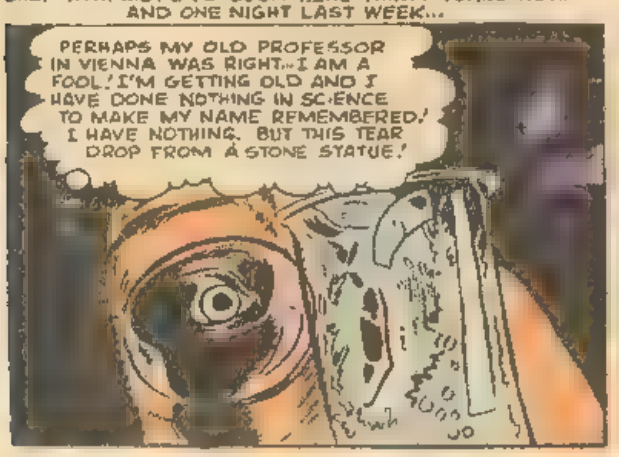

..AND THIS IS THE STATUE, ALBERT? DO YOU KNOW THAT THIS IS THE MIDGARD SERPENT .. ONE OF THE MONSTER CHILDREN OF LOKI, THE GOD OF FRAUD AND MISCHIEF?
DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE WHO THE STATUE IS OF?

I ONLY KNOW THAT I WAS HERE IN THIS SPOT LAST SUNDAY.' I WAS READING ALOUD FROM A BOOK OF POEMS WHEN I SUDDENLY HEARD WEEPING... I TURNED AND

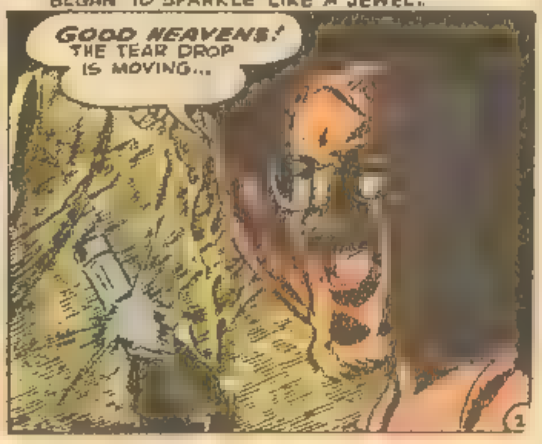
THIS IS FANTASTIC.' I'M LUCKY THAT I HAD THIS TEST TUBE FROM THE UNIVERSITY IN MY POCKET TO PUT THIS TEAR IN.' NOBODY WILL BELIEVE ME... BUT AS LONG AS I HAVE IT, I WILL KNOW THAT IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED.'


DON'T BE A FOOL, ALBERT..IT IS ONLY A RAIN DROP.' IF YOU BELIEVE IN NONSENSE LIKE THIS YOU WILL NEVER AMOUNT TO ANYTHING IN THE GREAT SCIENCE OF CHEMISTRY.'
SOMEDAY I WILL BE EVEN MORE FAMOUS THAN YOU, PROFESSOR... AND SIMPLY BECAUSE I DID BELIEVE IN "NONSENSE" LIKE THIS.'

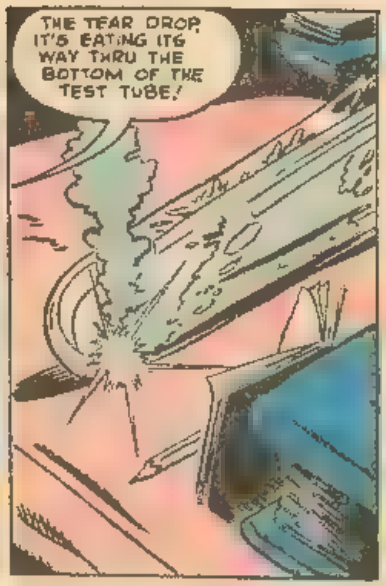
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PROFESSOR AND ME WERE NEVER THE SAME AFTER THAT.' BUT I GRADUATED AND THEN CAME TO AMERICA--AND I CARRIED MY TEAR DROP WITH ME.' I'VE BEEN HERE THIRTY YEARS NOW. AND ONE NIGHT LAST WEEK...

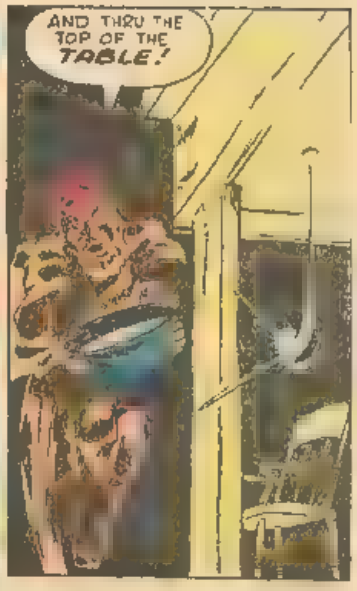

PERHAPS MY OLD PROFESSOR IN VIENNA WAS RIGHT--I AM A FOOL.' I'M GETTING OLD AND I HAVE DONE NOTHING IN SCIENCE TO MAKE MY NAME REMEMBERED.' I HAVE NOTHING. BUT THIS TEAR DROP FROM A STONE STATUE.'

THEN IT CAME... A BOLT OF GHOST-WHITE LIGHTNING SHOT OUT OF THE PEACEFUL NIGHT SKY AND SMASHED THRU THE WINDOW.' IT LINGERED OVER THE TEST TUBE.. AND THE TEAR DROP WITHIN BEGAN TO SPARKLE LIKE A JEWEL.



AFTER THE BOLT OF LIGHTNING DISAPPEARED, I WAS COMPLETELY FASCINATED BY THE BRILLIANCE... THE MOVEMENT, OF THE TEAR DROP...





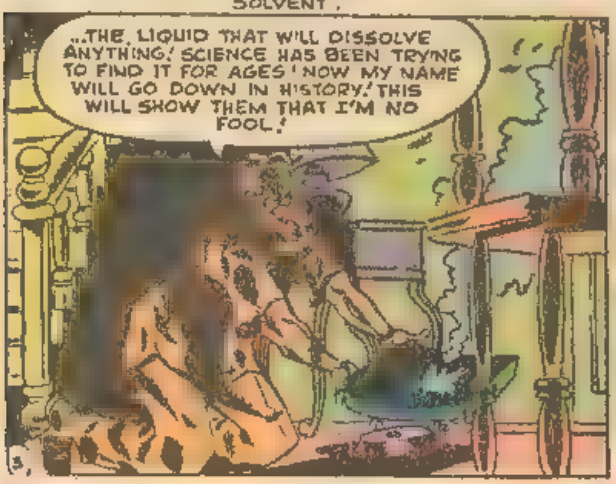
I GOT A SMALL SOUP POT AND CAUGHT THE TEAR DROP ...BUT...

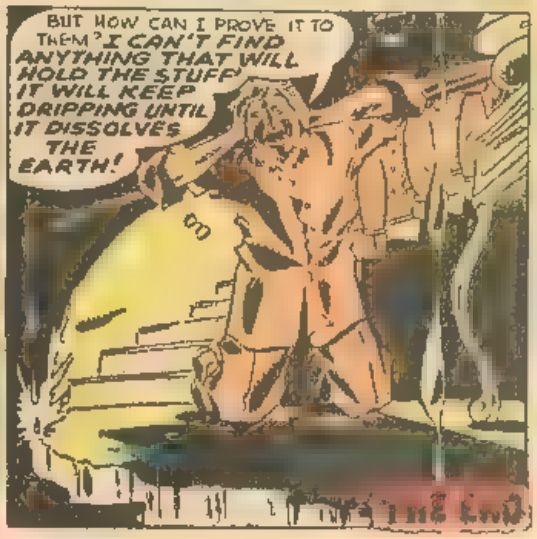
...AND IT DROPPED ON THE CONCRETE FLOOR! I SAW IT DISSOLVE THE STONE

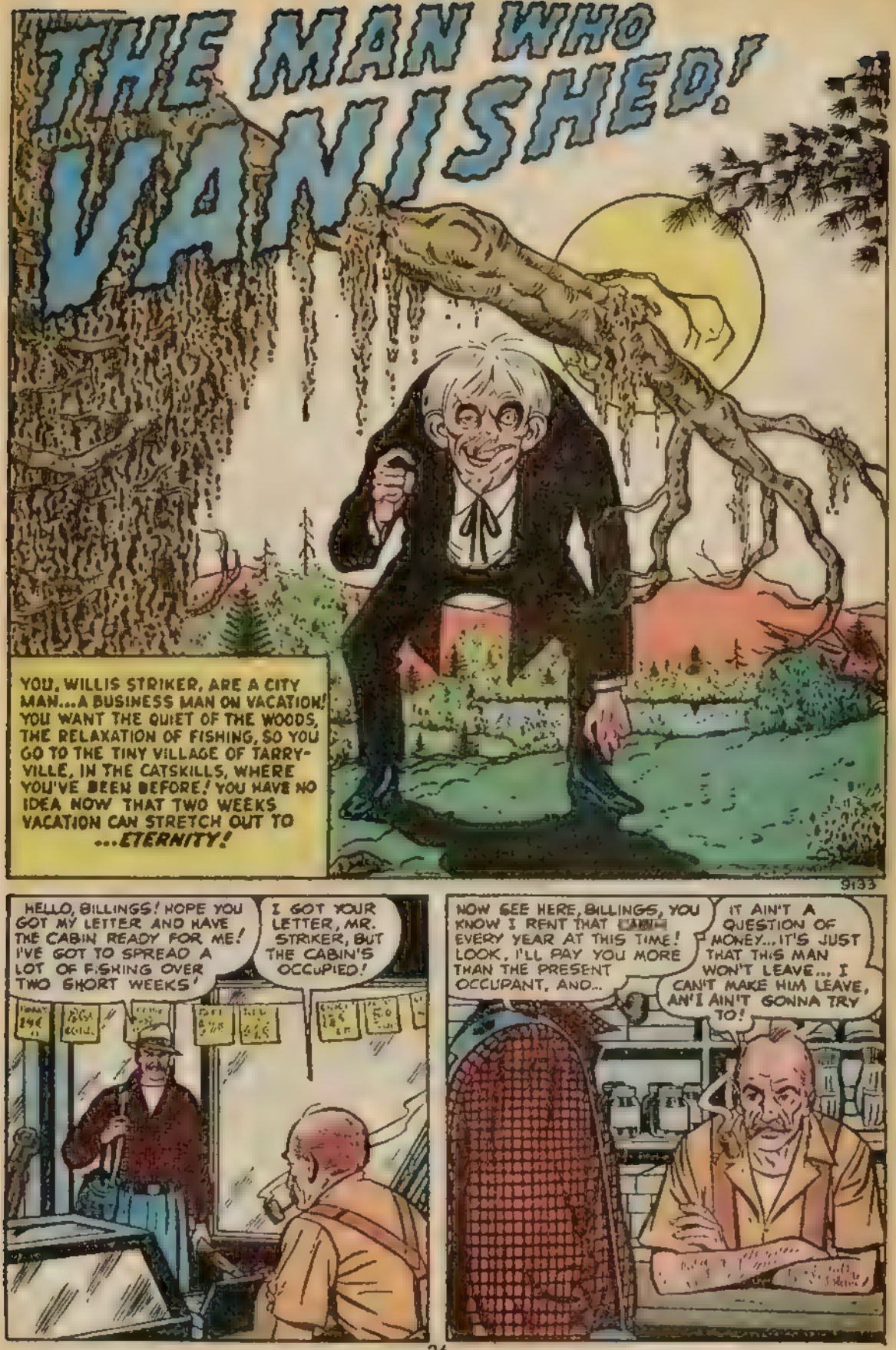
I RAN DOWNSTAIRS AND CAUGHT IT IN A SILVER DISH JUST AS IT CAME THRU THE CEILING..

...AND WHEN IT DISSOLVED THE SILVER PLATE I CAUGHT IT ON A SHEET OF IRON THREE INCHES THICK

AS IT BEGAN TO BORE ITS WAY THRU THAT, I SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT I HAD DISCOVERED THE UNIVERSAL SOLVENT.


...THE LIQUID THAT WILL DISSOLVE ANYTHING! SCIENCE HAS BEEN TRYING TO FIND IT FOR AGES! NOW MY NAME WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY! THIS WILL SHOW THEM THAT I'M NO FOOL!


BUT HOW CAN I PROVE IT TO THEM? I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING THAT WILL HOLD THE STUFF! IT WILL KEEP DRIPPING UNTIL IT DISSOLVES THE EARTH!


THE MAN WHO VANISHED!
YOU, WILLIS STRIKER, ARE A CITY MAN...A BUSINESS MAN ON VACATION! YOU WANT THE QUIET OF THE WOODS, THE RELAXATION OF FISHING, SO YOU GO TO THE TINY VILLAGE OF TARRYVILLE, IN THE CATSKILLS, WHERE YOU'VE BEEN BEFORE! YOU HAVE NO IDEA NOW THAT TWO WEEKS VACATION CAN STRETCH OUT TO ...ETERNITY!
9133
HELLO, BILLINGS! HOPE YOU GOT MY LETTER AND HAVE THE CABIN READY FOR ME! I'VE GOT TO SPREAD A LOT OF FISHING OVER TWO SHORT WEEKS!
I GOT YOUR LETTER, MR. STRIKER, BUT THE CABIN'S OCCUPIED!
NOW SEE HERE, BILLINGS, YOU KNOW I RENT THAT CABIN EVERY YEAR AT THIS TIME! LOOK, I'LL PAY YOU MORE THAN THE PRESENT OCCUPANT, AND...
IT AIN'T A QUESTION OF MONEY... IT'S JUST THAT THIS MAN WON'T LEAVE... I CAN'T MAKE HIM LEAVE, AN' I AIN'T GONNA TRY TO!

YOU'RE IMPATIENT NOW! THERE'S SOMETHING HERE THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. SOMETHING MIRRORED IN THE FEAR-FILLED EYES OF BILLINGS!
BILLINGS I'M A MAN WHO'S USED TO GETTING HIS OWN WAY! I WANT THAT CABIN, AND I WON'T BE PUT OFF!
I WISH I COULD GIVE IT TO YOU THE OLD MAN UP THERE DON'T PAY ME NO RENT AT ALL HE WON'T LEAVE!
THEN WHY DON'T YOU KICK HIM OFF?
I SENT MY HIRED HAND, JUD, UP TO DO JUST THAT, AN' HE DISAPPEARED! THAT OLD MAN IS EVIL... NOBODY'LL GO NEAR HIM OR THE CABIN ANYMORE! HE'S IN LEAGUE WITH THE DEVIL!
WHY, MAN, YOU'RE REALLY AFRAID! THAT'S JUST SOME OF YOUR CATSKILL SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE! I'VE COME HERE TO FISH, AN' FISH I WILL! I'M GOING UP THERE AN' KICK THIS FELLOW OUT!
MR STRIKER, DON'T GO UP THERE... LEAVE THE OLD MAN BE... HE'S EVIL, I TELL YOU EVIL!
BUT YOU LAUGH AT BILLINGS AND HIS FEARS! THIS IS THE 20TH CENTURY. AND YOU ARE A HARD-HEADED BUSINESSMAN WITHOUT SUPERSTITIONS OR FEARS! YOU HIKE UP TO THE CABIN...
THERE'S THE CABIN... AND THAT MUST BE THE OLD MAN!
HEY, YOU!
THE OLD MAN TURNS, AND YOU STOP IN YOUR TRACKS! IF YOU EVER SAW EVIL IN A HUMAN FACE, IT IS HERE IN HIS! EVIL THAT MAKES YOUR FLESH CRAWL!
WITH AN EFFORT OF WILL, YOU SHAKE OFF YOUR UNACCUSTOMED FEAR! YOU'RE AS BAD AS THOSE UNEDUCATED IDIOTS IN THE VILLAGE! THIS IS JUST AN OLD MAN WHOM THE YEARS HAVE RAVAGED AND MADE QUEER!
SEE HERE, OLD MAN, I USE THIS CABIN EVERY YEAR! I WANT YOU TO LEAVE! DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

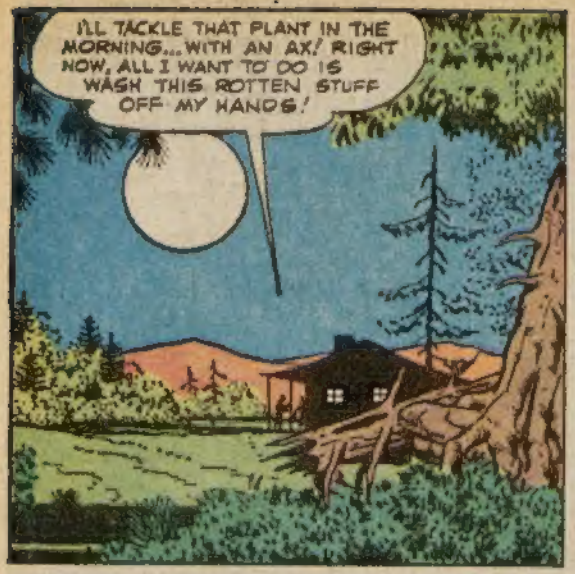
HE TURNS AND TROTS AWAY, MAKING A GESTURE TOWARD THE CABIN, AND AS HE LOPES AWAY HE TURNS HIS HEAD AND LAUGHS... HORRIBLE, SILENT LAUGHTER!
DIDN'T MAKE A SOUND... JUST LEFT! I DON'T WONDER THE VILLAGERS ARE AFRAID OF HIM... HE'S ENOUGH TO SCARE ANYONE! WELL, I'M RID OF HIM NOW!

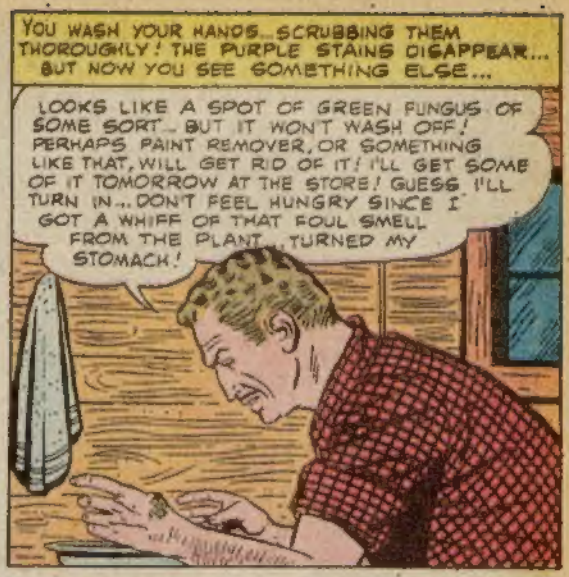
YOU MOVE YOUR EQUIPMENT INTO THE CABIN... A STRANGELY EMPTY CABIN!
STRANGE... THE OLD MAN'S BEEN LIVING HERE, BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF IT! NO FOOD... THE BED NOT MUSSED... UNMARKED DUST ON THE FLOOR! OH WELL, I'VE COME HERE FOR A VACATION... I'LL PUT HIM OUT OF MY MIND! HE'S GONE NOW, ANYHOW!

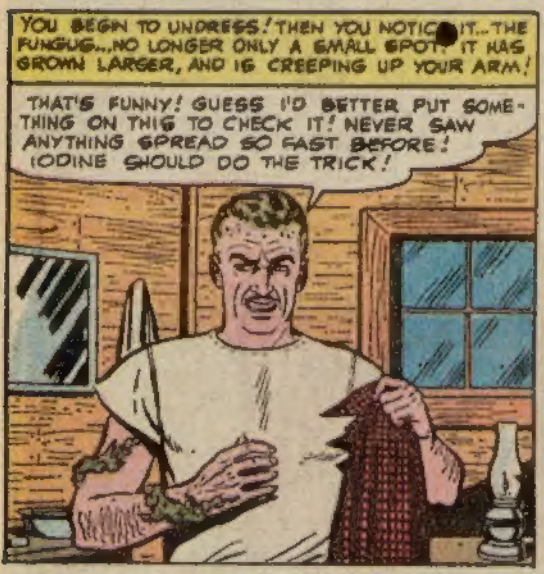
OUTSIDE, YOUR EYES KEEP STRAYING TO THE GROTESQUE PLANT-FORM THE OLD MAN HAD BEEN TENDING! ITS STRANGE, HUMAN-LIKE OUTLINE DISTURBS YOU... REMINDS YOU OF THE EVIL OLD MAN...
THE PLANT'S AS BAD AS THE OLD MAN! I'LL PULL IT UP AND THROW IT AWAY!

LITTLE BRANCHES AND BITS OF FOLIAGE BREAK OFF THE STRANGE PLANT AS YOU TUG AT IT, AND FROM EACH BREAK COMES CRIMSON SAP, THICK AND BLOOD-LIKE, AND AN ODOR, AS OF ROTTING FLESH! YOU BACK AWAY NAUSEATED!
(PHAUGH!)... WHAT A DISGUSTING ODOR! AND THIS SAP... LOOKS AND SMELLS LIKE BLOOD!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE


I'LL TACKLE THAT PLANT IN THE MORNING... WITH AN AX! RIGHT NOW, ALL I WANT TO DO IS WASH THIS ROTTEN STUFF OFF MY HANDS!

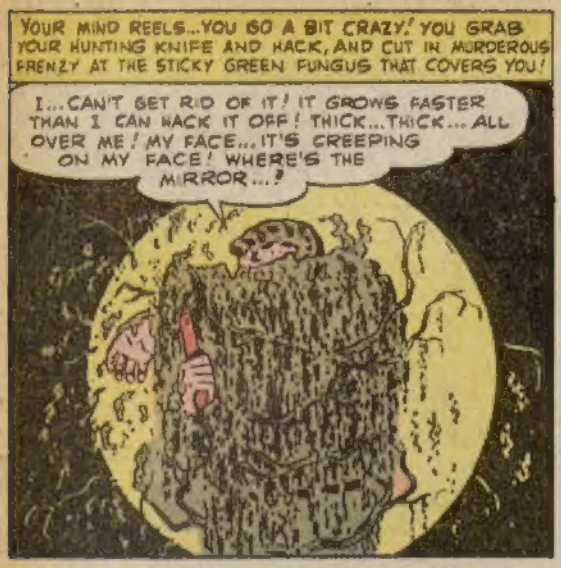

YOU WASH YOUR HANDS... SCRUBBING THEM THOROUGHLY! THE PURPLE STAINS DISAPPEAR... BUT NOW YOU SEE SOMETHING ELSE...
LOOKS LIKE A SPOT OF GREEN FUNGUS OF SOME SORT... BUT IT WON'T WASH OFF! PERHAPS PAINT REMOVER, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, WILL GET RID OF IT! I'LL GET SOME OF IT TOMORROW AT THE STORE! GUESS I'LL TURN IN... DON'T FEEL HUNGRY SINCE I GOT A WHIFF OF THAT FOUL SMELL FROM THE PLANT... TURNED MY STOMACH!


YOU BEGIN TO UNDRESS! THEN YOU NOTICE IT... THE FUNGUS... NO LONGER ONLY A SMALL SPOT! IT HAS GROWN LARGER, AND IS CREEPING UP YOUR ARM!
THAT'S FUNNY! GUESS I'D BETTER PUT SOMETHING ON THIS TO CHECK IT! NEVER SAW ANYTHING SPREAD SO FAST BEFORE! IODINE SHOULD DO THE TRICK!

THERE! THAT'LL STOP IT! I'LL SEE A DOCTOR IN THE MORNING IN TOWN... LET HIM TREAT THIS!

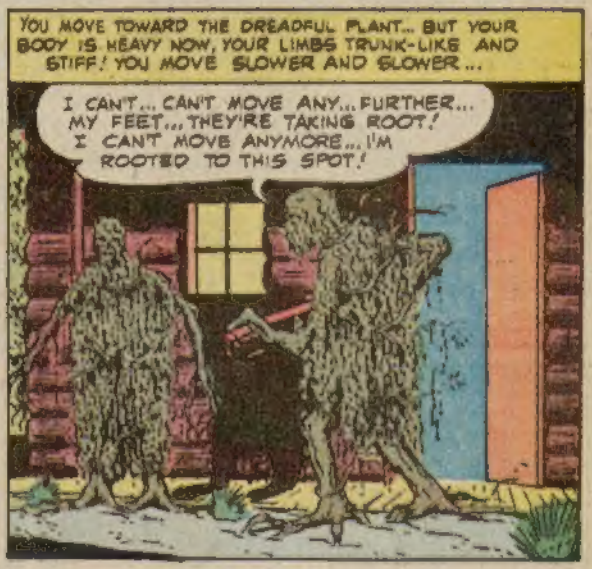
YOU LIE THERE IN THE DARK, BUT SLEEP EVADES YOU! YOUR SKIN FEELS PECULIAR! YOU THINK OF THE OLD MAN... THE GRUESOME PLANT OUTSIDE...
NO USE... I CAN'T SLEEP! MIGHT AS WELL HAVE A SMOKE!

YOU LIGHT THE LAMP, AND STARE AT YOUR HAND HOLDING THE MATCH, AND THE ARM ABOVE IT... AND TERROR COVERS YOU LIKE A SHROUD!
NO... NO! THE STUFF'S SPREAD ALL OVER ME! WHAT... WHAT CAN I DO?

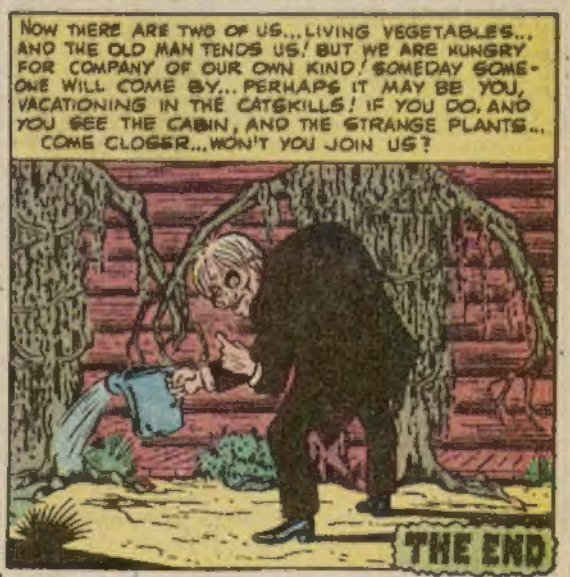

YOUR MIND REELS...YOU GO A BIT CRAZY! YOU GRAB YOUR HUNTING KNIFE AND HACK, AND CUT IN MURDEROUS FRENZY AT THE STICKY GREEN FUNGUS THAT COVERS YOU!
I...CAN'T GET RID OF IT! IT GROWS FASTER THAN I CAN HACK IT OFF! THICK...THICK... ALL OVER ME! MY FACE...IT'S CREEPING ON MY FACE! WHERE'S THE MIRROR...?

ARGHHH! I...I LOOK LIKE THE PLANT OUTSIDE...THE OLD MAN'S PLANT! JUD... THE MAN THE STOREKEEPER SENT WHO DISAPPEARED...HE'S THE PLANT OUTSIDE! THE EVIL OLD MAN DID IT!

I MUST DESTROY THE PLANT... DESTROY THE OLD MAN'S EVIL... SMASH IT...


YOU MOVE TOWARD THE DREADFUL PLANT... BUT YOUR BODY IS HEAVY NOW, YOUR LIMBS TRUNK-LIKE AND STIFF! YOU MOVE SLOWER AND SLOWER...
I CAN'T... CAN'T MOVE ANY... FURTHER... MY FEET... THEY'RE TAKING ROOT! I CAN'T MOVE ANYMORE... I'M ROOTED TO THIS SPOT!

THEN THE EVIL OLD MAN IS BACK, HIS TERRIBLE FACE CONTORTED IN MACABRE, SILENT LAUGHTER!


NOW THERE ARE TWO OF US... LIVING VEGETABLES... AND THE OLD MAN TENDS US! BUT WE ARE HUNGRY FOR COMPANY OF OUR OWN KIND! SOMEDAY SOMEONE WILL COME BY... PERHAPS IT MAY BE YOU, VACATIONING IN THE CATSKILLS! IF YOU DO, AND YOU SEE THE CABIN, AND THE STRANGE PLANTS... COME CLOSER... WON'T YOU JOIN US?
THE END

GIVEN - GIVEN
PREMIUMS or CASH

BOYS GIRLS

OUR 56th YEAR

OUR 56th YEAR

BE FIRST

ACT NOW

We are Reliable

Send No Money Now! We Trust You!

Footballs, Ukuleles, Watches (sent postage paid). Many other valuable Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE for chaps and mild burns and easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. We are reliable. Our 56th year. Write or mail coupon today. Be first. **WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. A-148, TYRONE, PA.**

GIVEN - GIVEN
PREMIUMS or CASH

Boys Girls

BOYS - GIRLS - LADIES

Lovable fully dressed Dolls over 15" in height (sent postage paid). Latest models Girls-Boys Bicycles (sent express charges collect). Many other valuable Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount per catalog sent with your starting order postage paid by us. 56th year. We are reliable. Write or mail coupon today. **Wilson Chem. Co., Dept. B-148, Tyrone, Pa.**

Act Now

Our 56th Year

Be First

GIVEN - PREMIUMS or Cash Commission - GIVEN

BE FIRST

SEND NO MONEY NOW

BOYS - GIRLS - LADIES - MEN

WE TRUST YOU

Wrist Watches, Pocket Watches, 1000 Shot Daisy Red Ryder Air Rifles with tube of shot, Genuine 22 Cal. Rifles, Telescopes, Radios, Movie Machines, Record Players (sent postage paid). Many other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE for chaps and mild burns and easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. We are reliable. Our 56th year. Write or mail coupon today. Act now. Be first. We trust you. **Wilson Chemical Co., Dept. C-148, Tyrone, Pa.**

Act Now

Boys-Girls-Ladies-Men

GIVEN
PREMIUMS - CASH

WE TRUST YOU BE FIRST

BOYS! GIRLS! Complete Fishing Kits, Flashlights (sent postage paid). Many other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium sent with your order postage paid by us to start. **WILSON CHEMICAL CO., Dept. B-148, TYRONE, PA.**

Act Now

GIVEN - PREMIUMS or CASH

GIRLS! BOYS! Candid Cameras with Carrying Cases, Watches (sent postage paid). Other valuable Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount per catalog sent with starting order postage paid by us. Be first. **Wilson Chem. Co., Dept. E-148, Tyrone, Pa.**

MAIL COUPON TODAY

Wilson Chem. Co., Dept. MC-148, Tyrone, Pa. Date.....

Gentlemen:—Please send me on trial 13 colorful art pictures with 13 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 25c a box (with picture). I will remit amount within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as fully explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with my order postage paid to start.

NAME..... AGE.....

ST..... R.D..... BOX.....

ZONE

TOWN..... NO..... STATE.....

Print LAST Name Here

Paste on a postal card or mail in an envelope NOW